

convince the provinces to agree to signing the international human rights Covenants. We had to carry on a petition campaign in 1971. We forget how recently this battle was against violence, genocide and hatred. We forget how thin is the veneer of civilization still. In 1971 Canada still had not yet signed the international human rights covenants because the provinces refused until then, and until some time later, to give their consent to Canada signing those covenants.

Why could Canada not sign them without the provinces? Those covenants included areas that dealt with matters that were of a provincial nature. In respect for the provinces, the federal Liberal Government was not able to proceed more quickly in signing those international human rights covenants. Through the persuasion of petitions we were able one by one to convince each of the provinces to sign those covenants. It was a long struggle.

Then came the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It was a further step to try and espouse those noble values and principles and enshrine them into our Constitution. We wanted to say that all men are equal, that they will be treated equally, that they have the right to be respected and not to be assaulted in their dignity and their right to exist in freedom in this country. That is why the Charter of Rights needed to be enshrined.

There are those who want to regress and treat these things in a light-hearted fashion. Canadians wanted that Charter. They have now seen that dream also, another step forward, step by step to combat violence. In the Charter of Rights and Freedoms we speak about the right of people to be able to conduct their lives without threat to their dignity, to their person, their family and their property. We cannot do enough to enshrine these values.

I am happy to say that this is one of the great Parliaments of the world, one of the few places in the world where we believe we can enjoy those freedoms, where we try to protect the dignity of our citizens. I am proud to be part of that kind of Parliament and to have served in that Parliament. I suggest that this Bill is indeed just a stop-gap measure, a small blip in a much greater challenge which we must face. That challenge is to face violence and deal with it, not merely with the rape that takes place or the terrorism that takes place, or the battered wives or children who are abused. Rather, we must deal with the causes of violence.

We must ask ourselves about the way in which the communication systems convey violence, particularly the manner of permitting into this country hate literature or pornography which enhances, spreads or incites a form of violence. Rape is a form of violence, as is child abuse, murder and terrorism. Denying the dangers of the Holocaust and its existence is indeed to deny the greatest and most horrible violence we have known in this century.

Right at this time, because our Bills still are not adequate and our protection is not adequate, hate literature and denials of the Nazi Holocaust can enter and cross our borders at will. I wish to bring to the attention of the House the horrors that existed for those who would deny that the Holocaust took

place. It was not just this deformed mentality that has been entertaining, if you will, those who enjoy that kind of entertainment in a hard hat and in a courtroom. Others in this country who are perhaps more serious individuals are also hateful and have also spread the idea that the Holocaust did not take place. I remember someone from Quebec who ran for the Tory Party who was espousing that view. He ran in Terrebonne. He espoused the view that the Holocaust never took place, that the Jews in fact torpedoed their own ships to create martyrs in the last war. That came from the mentality of a Canadian, not one who is across the seas.

In case there are those pathetic minds who think that the Holocaust never took place for one reason or another, I wish to point out that I recently attended a rally at Queen's Park in Toronto. The rally was held in order to allow the German Consul General, Dr. Ernst-Gunther Koch, to be able to give a message from Germany about the Holocaust to counter this hate literature, this hatred being distributed throughout the country to cast doubt upon the integrity of the Jewish people and their honesty in saying that the Holocaust took place. These are the words of Dr. Koch:

I thank you very much for your invitation to be with you this afternoon. This gives me—as the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany—an opportunity to draw your attention to the following facts:

The conviction of my Government as well as the attitude of the German people with regard to the genocide of the Jews during the National Socialist Regime—

That was the Nazi regime.

—are based on the fact that it was the declared goal of the national socialist policy to persecute and annihilate the Jewish population in Germany and Europe for racial reasons.

As a consequence of this criminal policy, millions of Jews were killed, and the Jews were afflicted with terrible pain and grief.

● (1250)

These facts are absolutely evident for my Government. They are confirmed by the consistent results of research of all competent historians as well as by the sentences pronounced by German courts and by witnesses and defendants in these procedures. The great majority of Germans shares this view which has been held by all German governments since the chancellorship of Konrad Adenauer in 1949. My Government considers it an undeniable fact that a large number of Jews were gassed in concentration camps. German courts have regarded the claim that there were no gas-chambers in concentration camps established by the Nazi regime for the mass murder of Jews and other people as defamation and have instituted criminal proceedings in such cases.

The Federal and Land Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany have been endeavouring for decades to redress the crimes of the Nazi Regime. The Bundesrat and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have repeatedly stated that redress for the crimes of the Nazi Regime is one of the most important and urgent commitments of the German people.

That was a statement made by Dr. Ernst-Guenther Koch, Consul General of Germany, on behalf of his Government.

I bring this to your attention, Mr. Speaker, to show how, on the one hand, one can have the total submission of the German Governments and of the German people to clarify their own history and yet we have the bizarre situation of pedlars of hate defaming the Jewish people and those of us who had parents and relatives who were not Jews but died in the Holocaust. They are defaming the very existence of those people and